

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



January 20, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION BY XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR ALTERATION TO A TRANSMISSION LINE IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Xcel Energy has applied to the Environmental Quality Board for approval to reroute a short portion of a 115 kilovolt transmission line near the Willmar substation in Kandiyohi County. Xcel intends to remove fourteen structures on the north side of the substation and reroute the line along an existing transmission line parallel to 45th Avenue S.W. in Willmar on the south side. This reroute of the line will eliminate fourteen structures along the existing alignment on the north side of the substation. There is other work going on at the Willmar substation, including the rebuild of a 115 kV line to Kerkhoven and the relocation of a 230 kV line to Paynesville.

Xcel maintains that the relocation of the line constitutes a minor alteration of an existing line. A minor alteration is a change in an existing transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. In accordance with EQB rules, part 4400.3820, the EQB Chair is providing notice to the public that Xcel has applied for approval of this project. The public has until February 6, 2004, to submit comments on this project. After close of the comment period, the Chair will decide whether to grant the request for approval of a minor alteration, bring the matter to the Board for decision, or to require that a full permit be applied for.

To submit comments or to ask questions or to seek further information about this proposed project, please contact David Birkholz (651) 296-2878 or Alan Mitchell at (651) 296-3714, or email at david.birkholz@state.mn.us or alan.mitchell@state.mn.us